

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: LEFTIST LABOR RALLY

REF: LIMA 1778

SUMMARY. LEFTIST-SPONSORED LABOR RALLY NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 25
DREW ONLY A SMALL CROWD. SPEAKERS STRONGLY ATTACKED GOP LABOR
AND ECONOMIC POLICIES. AT SAME TIME IN PROVINCES MORALES
BERMUDEZ WAS LAMBASTING LABOR AND POLITICAL TROUBLEMAKERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION SPEARHEADED BY COMMUNIST-LED
CGTP FINALLY MATERIALIZED FEBRUARY 25 IN WORKING CLASS
DISTRICT OF LIMA. EMBASSY SOURCES ESTIMATED THAT ONLY ABOUT
1,500 TO 3,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED.

2. SPEAKERS FROM ABOUT A DOZEN NATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT LEFTIST
UNIONS SPENT THREE HOURS IN PRAISING
UNITY OF LEFT AND CRITICIZING LABOR MINISTRY FOR ITS UNRE-
SPONSIVENESS AND GOP CURBS ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND WAGE
HIKES. ONE OBSERVER SAID CGTP ATTACKS WERE THE STRONGEST IN
THE SEVEN-YEAR HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
WERE NOT ATTACKED BY NAME, BUT THERE WAS INTENSE CROWD JEERING
WHEN ONE LABOR SPOKESMAN ATTEMPTED TO PUT IN WORD OF SUPPORT

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FOR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. OCCASIONAL ANTI-KISSINGER AND ANTI-

U.S. REFERENCES PEPPERED RHETORIC. POLICE PRECAUTIONS APPEARED MINIMUM AT RALLY SITE.

3. LIMA PRESS LARGEY IGNORED RALLY; ONLY EXPRESO AND LA PRENSA MENTIONED IT. INSTEAD, LIMA DAILIES GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO CURRENT TOUR BY PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. ON FIRST OF THREE-DAY SWING THROUGH SOUTHERN PERU, HE CONDEMNED TROUBLE-MAKING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO BLAME GOP FOR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITHIN COUNTRY WHICH ARE IN FACT TRACEABLE TO WORLD CONDITIONS. " THEY ARE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE WORK STOPPAGES, STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN ORDER TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION FURTHER." HE DISMISSED THESE PRESSURES AS THE TACTICS OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL SCHEMERS FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS.

4. COMMENT: SMALL TURN-OUT FOR CGTP-LED RALLY WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THAT AT APRA RALLY FEBRUARY 20. NEITHER GROUP -- AND THE DEMANDS IT PUTS FORWARD --IS ATTRACTIVE TO THE GOP, BUT THE GOP SHOULD (AND MAY) PONDER THE RELATIVE STRENGTHS TURNED OUT ON THE LIMA STREETS IN SETTING THE COURSE FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION.
DEAN

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